

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 14, 2006. Presently, Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 14 have been examined and stand rejected. Claim 9 is objected to. Claims 12, 13, and 15 are allowed.

The Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to on the grounds that the title is not descriptive. In response thereto, the title has been amended.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,994 (Ogawa et al.) in view of JP9063057 (Matsumoto et al.).

Claims 1-7 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Because of the cancellation of Claims 1-7 and 14, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 8 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Matsumoto et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,815,035 (Bennet et al.).

Claims 8 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Because of the cancellation of Claims 8 and 11, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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The Rejection of Claim 10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Matsumoto et al., and in view of applicants' related art.

Claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled claim in a continuing application.

Because of the cancellation of Claim 10, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 13, and 15 are allowed. Applicants have amended Claims 12, 13, and 15 to include the word "apparatus" in the preamble of each claim.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 1 and 8.

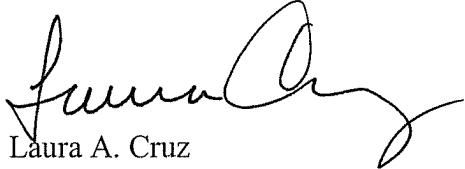
Accordingly, Claims 9, 12, 13, and 15 are submitted to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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